Assad: Syria, North Korea Targeted Over 'Real Independence'

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A handout picture shows Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, left, meeting with Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Sin Hong Chol in Damascus, March 8, 2015.

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Syria's President Bashar al-Assad said his country and North Korea are under scrutiny because of their "real independence."

Citing Assad, who on Sunday hosted a delegation from Pyongyang headed by North Korean Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Sin Hong Chol, Syrian state media outlet SANA reports the president "emphasized that Syria and (the Democratic People's Republic of Korea) are being targeted because they are among those few countries which enjoy real independence. ..."